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Hodgkin dealt with theological controversies in telling the deathless story of Italy and her invaders, a work that will last as long as our tongue. The weary details of the damnation or other fate of Theodore of Mopsuestia, all the theological intricacies of Justinian's reign, assume under his pen an interest fully equal to that of the rest of his narrative. Had Hodgkin written the work before us it would have taken its place as one of the classics of the English language, without necessarily being more useful than it is to the student who is really keen.

As a book of reference Mr. Franks's great work—for it is a great work—has few rivals, at any rate in the English language. It will be of the greatest value to all who have to teach church history and if they can make their students read it too, it will be the highest tribute to their zeal. But at the same time we rather suspect that those who have read or will read the volumes from cover to cover without the terror of an examination before them might hold a convention in the drawing-room of an average New York apartment.

The publishers deserve credit for the attractive manner in which the volumes are printed and bound.

IAN C. HANNAH

OBERLIN COLLEGE
OBERLIN, OHIO

BRIEF MENTION

OLD TESTAMENT

BÖHL, F. M. TH. *Het Oude Testament*. [Býbelschkerkelik Woordenboek, Eerste Deel.] Groningen, Holland: J. B. Wolters' U. M. 1919. viii+332 pages. F. 7.25.

Professor Böhl has accomplished a difficult and wearing task in the preparation of a dictionary of the Old Testament by his own unaided efforts. The scholarship and scientific spirit of the work are guaranteed by the author's name. Its character, however, as a handbook for general use is constantly kept in mind. Only the most salient facts are noted. The longest article does not extend over two pages. The general point of view in the treatment of the various subjects is closely allied to that of the so-called *religions-geschichtliche* school, represented by Gunkel, Gressman, Hans Schmidt, *et al.* In addition to the Old Testament data that naturally belong in such a work, we find also the names of outstanding representations of Old Testament science during the last century. Here we can but note the omission of many names of English-speaking scholars whom we should expect to find, especially when we observe how wide open the door is held for German and Dutch scholars. But for Dutch readers in general this preference is easily justifiable.

Scattered through the work we find interesting bits of Böhl's own views that are more or less new. For example, Isaiah, chapters 24-27 are connected with the devastation of Babylon in 689 B.C. and chapters 13 and 14 with the murder

of Sennacherib in 681 B.C. Deutero-Isaiah did not so much write under the name of Isaiah as preach upon short passages or "texts" originating with Isaiah. The reconciliation of the supposed fact that the name Yahweh is found before the time of Moses and yet Moses is said to have received the revelation of the name of Yahweh is sought in the hypothesis that there were two forms of this name, viz., Yahu and Yahweh, just as is the case with Abram and Abraham. In this connection reference should have been made to the Assuan papyri and the form used there. It is not quite accurate or safe to say that nobody doubts the unity and integrity of the Book of Ezekiel. Brief but good bibliographies are added to all the more important articles.

J. M. P. S.

GENUNG, J. F. *A Guidebook to the Biblical Literature*. Boston, Ginn & Co., 1919. xvi+686 pages.

In this handbook, Professor Genung furnishes an introduction to both Old and New Testaments. It calls attention primarily to the contents and value of the biblical material and does not stress date, authorship, and similar matters which constitute so large a part of the traditional introduction. For this reason it forms a useful supplement to such books. The point of view of the treatment is rather confusing. The method is in a broad way historical, but in detailed application it contents itself with acceptance of traditional views to such an extent as almost to vitiate the usefulness of the book for historically minded students. Critical knowledge and the traditional terminology of standardized piety rub elbows on every page. For example, on page 34 we are clearly informed that the patriarchal stories interpret "racial traits in masterly terms of individualized personality" and contain "historical conditions reduced to biographical detail." Yet the patriarchs are treated as real persons undergoing real experiences as recorded in the narratives. Isaiah is credited with practically everything in chapters 1-39. The New Testament section reveals the same characteristics. This "guide" will be most useful to those who know most.

J. M. P. S.

HILL, J. G. *The Prophets in the Light of Today*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1919. 240 pages. \$1.25.

This is not a study of the prophets nor an orderly exposition of their teachings. It is rather a series of inspirational chapters based upon the teachings of the prophets. The point of view is that of the modern, historical school and the preaching is good. This attractive use of the prophets and their utterances ought to inspire some readers to seek a closer acquaintance with the prophets and their books.

J. M. P. S.

PENNIMAN, JOSIAH H. *A Book about the English Bible*. New York: Macmillan, 1919. ix+444 pages. \$2.25.

The English Bible has recently received new attention by specialists in English literature. The excellency of its language, and the romantic history of its preservation down through the centuries, have aroused a genuine interest in its historical background and in its literary forms and characteristics. Professor Penniman tells us in the Preface, that the book "has grown out of a series of lectures delivered to students in the University of Pennsylvania, the purpose of which was to give a brief account